

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 L-02 H-01 NSC-05 CAB-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

FAA-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /052 W

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R 081133Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8226

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 17732

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-THAI NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 246027

1. SUMMARY: RECESSED FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 WITH AGREEMENT TO MEET AGAIN IN BANGKOK IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS. CLIMATE CORDIAL. USDEL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT STATUS QUO WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN INTERIM. THAIDEL GAVE NO CLEAR CUT COMMITMENT BUT APPEARED RELAXED.

2. USDEL OPENED MEETING BY EXPLAINING INTENSIVE REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES NOW GOING ON IN WASHINGTON AND SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING USG IN DEALING WITH PAA/TWA PROPOSAL. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES USG WAS NOT IN POSITION TO GIVE COMPLETE RESPONSE TO THAI PROPOSALS. SPECIAL TIMETABLE ON REVIEW OF PAA/TWA DEAL NOT KNOWN BUT USDEL ESTIMATED THAT 3-4 MONTHS NEEDED BEFORE ISSUE FULLY CLARIFIED. HOWEVER, USDEL WAS PREPARED TO DEFER OTHER COMMITMENTS AND STAY ON TO NEGOTIATE ON BASIS THAI DOC. 1 AND US DOC. 5 IF THAIDEL FELT THERE WAS ANY VALUE IN THIS.

3. THAIDEL INTERVENED TO REITERATE THAT US DOC. 5 WAS NOT RECIPROCAL AND NOT ACCEPTABLE. THAIDEL SAW LITTLE VALUE IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IF THIS WAS TO BE BASIS.

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4. USDEL EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THAIDEL POSITION AND PROPOSED, THAT IF TOKYO-GUAM WAS STILL ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THAI POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS BE RECESSED FOR A PERIOD OF 90-120 DAYS TO ALLOW PAA/TWA DEAL TO BE SORTED OUT AS WELL AS TO GIVE GOVERNMENTS AMPLE TIME TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS THIS ROUND, AND HOPEFULLY PROVIDE BASIS FOR RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

5. AFTER SOME DEBATE AND RESTATEMENTS OF POSITION THAIDEL AGREED TO RECESS TALKS UNTIL FEBRUARY. NO DIRECT THREAT OF ACTION AGAINST US CARRIERS WAS MADE BUT AT ONE POINT SIRILAK ASKED MILDLY WHAT REACTION WOULD BE IF RTG REDUCED US CARRIER SERVICE TO SAME LEVEL AS AIR SIAM. USDEL SAID WE WOULD BE GREATLY DISAPPOINTED AND UNHAPPY IF THIS DEVELOPED. WE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEITHER SIDE TAKE ACTION WHICH COULD AFFECT ADVERSELY CLIMATE FOR NEXT ROUND. THAIDEL EXPRESSED NO COMMITMENT BUT DID APPEAR TO ACCEPT THRUST OF US STATEMENT.

6. THAIDEL ASKED ABOUT PRESS LINE HE SHOULD TAKE. USDEL SUGGESTED FACTUAL LINE EMPHASIZING SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE IN THIS ROUND BUT WITH SOME ISSUES STILL UNRESOLVED FOR CONSIDERATION DURING RECESS. USDEL TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OPENING TO REFER TO CURRENT DISTORTED PRESS ARTICLES, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO ALLEGED US FREQUENCY RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THAI CARRIER, AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT THOSE INACCURACIES COULD BE CORRECTED. SIRILAK NODDED NON-COMMITTALLY AND SAID PRESS REPORTS WERE EXAGGERATED.

7. USDEL ASKED ABOUT CONCLUDING MEMCON THAIDEL SAID WAS UNNECESSARY. TABLED DOCUMENTS WERE ADEQUATE RECORD.

8. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH FINAL SESSION WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL WITH SIRILAK IN CLOSING STATEMENT NOTING THAT EACH SIDE WAS ATTEMPTING TO DEFEND ITS OWN INTERESTS AND THIS SHOULD NOT AFFECT PERSONAL RELATIONS.

9. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS USDEL DID NOT USE POSITION PROPOSED REFTEL WHICH IN OUR VIEW WOULD HAVE DESTROYED ANY POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING EITHER RECESS OR HOPE OF SHORT CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
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Draft Date: 08 NOV 1974
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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